

What is claimed is:

1. A polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

Sub C1 2. A polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence is represented by SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:33 or SEQ ID NO:50.

3. A partial peptide of the polypeptide according to claim 1, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

Sub C2 4. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising amino acid residues 101 (Ser) to 112 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO:1.

7. An amide of the partial peptide of the polypeptide according to claim 1, or a salt thereof.

8. A DNA containing a DNA bearing a base sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

9. A DNA according to claim 8 having the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:34 or SEQ ID NO:51.

10. A DNA containing a DNA encoding the partial peptide of claim 3.

11. A DNA according to claim 10, comprising bases 241 to 276 of the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

12. A DNA according to claim 10, comprising bases 301 to 336 of the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

13. A DNA according to claim 10, comprising bases
5 370 to 393 of the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

14. A recombinant vector containing the DNA of claim 8 or claim 10.

15. A transformant transformed with the
10 recombinant vector of claim 14.

16. A method for manufacturing the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which
15 comprises culturing said transformant of claim 15 and producing and accumulating the polypeptide of claim 1 or the partial peptide of claim 3.

17. An antibody to the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the
20 partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof according to claim 3.

18. A diagnostic composition comprising the DNA according to claim 8 or claim 10 or the antibody according to claim 17.

19. An antisense DNA having a complementary or substantially complementary base sequence to the DNA according to claim 8 or claim 10 and capable of
25 suppressing expression of said DNA.

20. A composition comprising the polypeptide or
30 its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof,

according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.

22. A method for screening a compound that accelerates or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide
5 or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which comprises using the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial
10 peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.

23. A method for screening according to claim 22, wherein the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial
15 peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3 and a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:37, or a salt thereof, or the partial peptide or its amide or
20 ester, or a salt thereof, are employed.

24. A kit for screening a compound that accelerates or inhibits the activity of the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester,
25 or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3.

25. A kit for screening according to claim 24,
30 comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3 and a protein containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the
35 amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:37 or the

partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

26. A compound that accelerates or inhibits the polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 22 or the screening kit according to claim 24.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that accelerates or inhibits the polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 3, which is obtainable using the screening method according to claim 22 or the screening kit according to claim 24.

28. A protein or a salt thereof containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:37.

29. A protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, wherein substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:37 is the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:54.

30. A partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 28.

31. A DNA containing a DNA having a base sequence encoding the protein according to claim 28 or the partial peptide according to claim 30.

32. A DNA according to claim 31 having the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:55 or SEQ ID NO:56.

33. A recombinant vector containing the DNA according to claim 31.

34. A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector according to claim 33.

35. A method for manufacturing the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30, which comprises culturing the transformant according to claim 34 and producing and accumulating the protein according to claim 28 or the partial peptide according to claim 30.

36. An antibody to the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.

37. A diagnostic composition comprising the DNA according to claim 31 or the antibody according to claim 36.

38. A ligand to the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which is obtainable by using the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester or, a salt thereof, according to claim 30.

39. A method for determination of a ligand to the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, characterized by using the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.

40. A method for screening a compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which comprises using the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.

41. A kit for screening a compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, comprising the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28 or the

partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 30.

42. A compound that alters the binding property between a ligand and the protein or a salt thereof
5 according to claim 28, which is obtainable by using the screening method according to claim 40 or the screening kit according to claim 41.

43. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that alters the binding property between a
10 ligand and the protein or a salt thereof according to claim 28, which is obtainable by using the screening method according to claim 40 or the screening kit according to claim 41.

44. A method for quantifying the protein or a salt
15 thereof according to claim 28, which comprises using the antibody of claim 36.